

- (iv) Developing of skills and marginal farmers and workers, appropriate cost effective research, promotion of local off-farming income/employment generation activities, etc.

(c) and (d). A project proposal aimed at developing a strategy so that food security for the poor is ensured through a self-reliant mechanism under the local level village Panchayats has been posed to the FAO for seeking technical assistance amounting to US \$ 196000. The proposal is under consideration of the FAO.

[Translation]

Illegal Trade of Birds

3189. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal trade of birds is going on very rapidly despite the enforcement of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check this illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Although some cases of illegal trade in birds are being detected from time to time, it is not a fact that this trade is going on very rapidly despite the enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) The trapping and killing of birds for commercial purposes is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, trade in birds which have been bred in captivity and do not fall under the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 can be carried out with an appropriate licence obtained from the State Chief Wildlife Warden under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

[English]

Broad Gauge Conversion of Vasco-Londa Route

3190. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expansion work regarding the conversion of metre-gauge to broad-gauge of Vasco-Londa route under the South Central Railway would be completed by the end of October, 1996;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to put an end to or minimise the hardships/sufferings of the rail commuters from Goa who have to travel all the way to Belgaum or Hubli to board the respective trains; and

(d) if not, whether the Ministry propose to provide any special facilities to these passengers from Goa till the time the said work is completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Londa-Castlerock section has already been converted into broad gauge and the section has been commissioned for passenger traffic on 22.06.1995. Work on gauge conversion of the remaining section from Castlerock-Vasco section has been taken up and the same is targeted for completion by 31.3.1997. The delay has occurred due to stay obtained by some contractors against finalisation of tenders, heavy rains from June to September and unforeseen problems of major bridge foundations. Pending completion of gauge conversion work between Castlerock-Vasco, passengers will have to avail of bus services for travel to and from Goa.

(d) No, Sir.

Agriculture University in Jammu

3191. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand from the people of Jammu Division for setting up of an Agriculture University at R.S. Pura in the Jammu District;

(b) whether an Agriculture College exists at R.S. Pura and infrastructure for setting up of an Agriculture University is also available there;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up of an Agriculture University there; and

(d) the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture has agreed in principle, for its establishment and the Prime Minister has announced it.

(b) Yes, Sir. A College of Agriculture under Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology exists at R.S. Pura, Jammu. However, facilities existing are not sufficient for setting up of an Agriculture University.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Establishment of Agricultural University is the State Subject.

Development of Coconut

3192. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coconut Board has formulated new schemes for the development of coconut for the year 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?